The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor exclusively in the fields of trial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 28, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 2, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1939 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1948 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 38, NO. 23

Are You REGISTERED?

Talks Continue In Oak Ridge Dispute; Brownlow Hits AEC's 'Do-Nothing' Policy

Washington.—The Atomic Energy Commission refused to try to bring about a settlement of the labor dispute between the AFL's Atomic Trades and Labor Council and the Carbide and Carbon Chemical Corporation, operators of the atomic bomb laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Eighty days ago about 1,000 AFL workers were forced to stay on their jobs under a Taft-Hartley law injunction issued by Federal Judge George C. Taylor at the request of the Department of Justice. Now this edition went to press, expiration of the 80-day period of the injunction neared with no settlement made, although negotiations are continuing.

James E. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Metal Trades Department, charged the Atomic Energy Commission with following a "do-nothing policy" which has, in effect, aided the recalcitrant corporation in its refusal to grant the justified terms sought by the union.

"It is time for the Atomic Energy Commission to step up and assume its responsibility for the protection of workers on this vital project," Brownlow declared.

The AFL workers had a contract with the Oneonta Chemical Corporation which formerly operated the plant. When the Department of Carbide Chemical Corporation took over operation, it sought changes in the contract in order to make it conform with the contracts the corporation has with other unions in other plants.

This would have meant that officials declared, sharp reduction in working standards. Sick leave benefits would be curtailed, vacation standards cut, and a 15 percent differential in wages in favor of laboratory workers which has been in effect traditionally because of the hazardous nature of their work would be wiped out.

Efforts to arbitrate the issues in dispute were refused by the company on the grounds that arbitration violates the harsh provisions of the Taft-Hartley law and its injunction provisions to force the union to capitulate to its unreasonable demands.

A recent vote of the employes at the corporation's plant does not show any sign of weakness on the union's part. The company's final offer of a 10-cent hourly wage increase was rejected overwhelmingly by a vote of 771 to 36.

With the expiration of the 80-day waiting period set under the Taft-Hartley law, legal processes are available to the union for the dissolution of the injunction which has forced workers to stay on the job. The injunction would leave the union legally free to strike, but in this edition went to press, no immediate action is contemplated according to union leaders.

Profits of 297 Companies Jump 26% in First Quarter; Cost of Living Up 8% in Year

New York.—Net income of 297 industrial manufacturers for the first quarter of 1948 was 26 percent above the corresponding period last year, according to a survey conducted by the New York Times.

Since last year was a banner year during which business profits soared to record heights, it is apparent that industry this year is out for even higher profit gains at the expense of American consumers.

Meanwhile, the latest figures on the cost of living released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show a continued rise. The consumers' price index for April was 8 percent higher than a year ago; 27 percent over June, 1946, and 71.7 percent above the level of August, 1939.

The Times survey reported net income of $893,132,207 for the 297 industrial firms on the basis of their official earnings statements. This compared very favorably with the $708,000,000 reported for the first quarter of 1947.

The newspaper account cited the continued heavy demand and higher prices as the principal factors behind the profit increases. Prime example of this was seen in the petroleum industry where several companies reported record profits for the first 3 months of 1948.

The Times survey showed that the petroleum group of 20 oil concerns totaled $241,226,500, exceeding the March, 1947, quarter by 109 percent.

The report declared that the large foreign aid program and heavy expenditures for national defense "should provide business for a period of 'relatively good earnings in certain industries."

The March output of manufactured goods amounted to 198 percent, compared with 197 percent for February and January, based on the Federal Reserve Board's yardstick of average production for 1935-39 as 100. It was only 2 percent below the postwar peak reached last October, but 14 percent above the March, 1947, level.

Manufacturers' sales also were higher during March, reaching an estimated $18,200,000,000 for the month, against $17,800,000,000 in February. Month-end inventories were carried at a book value of $28,900,000,000 against $28,800,000,000 a month earlier. Inventories of durable and nondurable goods industries at some $12,600,000,000 and $15,300,000,000, respectively, advanced about $100,000,000.

Hemispheric Labor Body Blasts 'Red' Ruled CTAL

Washington.—On the eve of the first meeting of its executive committee in San Francisco on June 12, the newly-formed Inter-American Confederation of Workers attacked the Latin-American Confederation of Workers as a tool of the Communist Party.

In its monthly bulletin for June, the CIT analyzes the report of the recently held convention of the CTAL, headed by Vicente Lombardo Toledano of Mexico, who has been branded by George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, as the "Stalin of labor in the Western Hemisphere."

Serafino Romualdi, the CIT's secretary of international relations, in his analysis of the official CTAL version of its convention, exposed the resolutions adopted as motivated by a desire to curry favor with the Kremlin up anti-American feeling. While stating that some of the resolutions dealing with purely Latin American problems are "good or innocuous," he said:

"Another set of resolutions, however, betrays the Communist Party line in almost every paragraph. They are a clear preparation for the rejection of the Havana charter of the International Trade Organization and warning the people of Latin America against the imperialistic character of such programs as the so-called Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan."

The CIT report hit at the numerous resolutions which were aimed at the United States and played upon the sentiments that the Yankees have imperialistic aims toward South and Central America. Among these were resolutions charging that the United States is trying to encourage bases in Europe and Latin America for attack on that country, and one condemning this government for its administration of Puerto Rico. The CTAL resolution on Puerto Rico declared that U. S. rule of that island represents a "half-century of Yanqui colonial oppression," and urged popular demonstrations by workers in Latin America to urge the immediate withdrawal of U. S. troops.

As further evidence of the Communist-dominated character of the Lombardo organization, the bulletin cites the newly elected officers of the CTAL. Of the 15 members of the CTAL executive committee, only one is anti-Communist, the CIT charged.

Summing up his bulletin of the CTAL, Mr. Romualdi said:

"An objective analysis of the CTAL report of its convention must lead one to the conclusion that the CTAL has ceased to be the representative organization of Latin American labor. It has, in fact, been reduced to a minority federation of groups controlled by the Communist Party."

NLRB Trial Examiner Rules ITU Guilty Of T-H Law Violation In Bargaining Case

Washington.—Persecution of the International Typographical Union continued as a trial examiner for the National Labor Relations Board ruled that the union had violated the Taft-Hartley law by refusing to bargain in good faith with commercial shops of the union.

The printing companies—which publish Time, Life, Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, Good Housekeeping, Cosmopolitan, Harper's Bazaar, Better Beautiful, and Field and Stream—are located in Chicago, Dunellen (N. J.), Louisville, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Kewaunee, Wis.

Trial Examiner Howard Myers recommended that all 7 locals be required to bargain in good faith upon request of employers and to incorporate any agreement reached in a written contract for a definite term.

Last summer the ITU adopted a policy against signing contracts under the Taft-Hartley Act because of its anti-union features and, since then, however, the union has continued to negotiate contracts of 60 days' duration.

Myers held that both the international union and the 7 locals have violated the Taft-Hartley law by stating that the print shops employ only ITU members.

The examiner made a similar finding involving printers in Baltimore, Cincinnati, and Los Angeles for League. The board has not yet ruled on the examiner's findings that the union or employers take exception to the examiner's report; it has the effect of a board order in 20 days.

NEW PAMPHLET SHOWS WAY TO JOBS FOR HANDICAPPED

Washington.—How employers, the public and the community can help handicapped workers in rehabilitating themselves is told in a pamphlet issued by the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor.

The pamphlet was prepared by the USES in cooperation with the Federal Interagency Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. It is available at local employment service offices in the various states, or at the Department of Labor in Washington.

It is designed to show how victims of war, industrial accidents and illness can become proficient and self-reliant if placed in jobs where the specific handicap is no bar to work performance. It describes who the handicapped are, what they can do and how the experience of thousands of employers has demonstrated that properly placed handicapped workers make steady, capable and productive employes.

The pamphlet lists specific things, employers, the handicapped workers, the public and the community can do to aid in providing jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers who for various reasons have been compelled to become handicapped.

AFL CANDY WORKERS UNIT WINS NEW PAY INCREASE

Hershey, Pa.—Over 4,000 workers will benefit from wage increases ranging from 4 to 11 cents an hour granted by the company, negotiated by an AFL union and the Hershey Chocolate Corporation and the Hershey Estates.

The 3-year corporation agreement includes a blanket 5-cent raise retroactive from January 1 for all. Male employees, beginning June 1 receive an additional 6 cents and women workers an additional 3 cents.

Hershey estate workers will receive increases of 8 to 8 cents an hour, depending on classification.

The contract also provides for a 5-cent standard of living increase next year, and 1-cent cost-of-living increase or decrease every 3 months based on federal Labor Department statistics.

Survey Shows Gains In Reestablishment Of European Social Security Programs

Montreal.—A report showing the extent to which European governments have reestablished or enlarged their prewar social security programs was made public in Montreal by the International Social Security Review.

It reveals that several governments in exile were making plans to modernize and improve their national social insurance programs even while their countries still were overrun by the Nazis.

For instance, Belgium, from the beginning of 1945, was able to put into force the provisional plan prepared in secret under the occupation.

The International Social Security Review says that the system was compiled at the International Labor Office in Montreal in an assortment of social insurance funds in 20 countries. It is closely associated with the ILO.

The report shows that as soon as they had liberated their territories governments reconstituted, the countries of Europe set to reform or to improve social insurance schemes which revealed in the rapid development of the last 2 years.

The survey reveals that France, Great Britain, Sweden and Yugoslavia already possess social security legislation providing complete coverage.

These systems embrace practically the whole population of employed and self-employed, with their wives and children. They cover the risks of sickness, maternity, invalidity, old age, death and family responsibilities, and, for the employed, the risk of unemployment.

Sweden is reviving its social security system, branch by branch, as Switzerland, national insurance against old age and death is about to begin. Yugoslavia has adopted a social insurance code of wide scope replacing the act of 1922.

In many countries, the organization of unemployment insurance has lagged behind other branches. Compulsory insurance schemes are working in Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Poland and some Swiss cantons. Provision is made for the introduction of insurance in the legislation of Belgium and Yugoslavia.

Whereas before the war some countries had as many as 4 different medical services, the ISSA survey shows great tendency to place medical care in a single service.

Only in the case in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway, where employed persons, their families and their dependents are covered. In Great Britain and the USSR, the whole population is protected.

In Sweden, likewise, every inhabitant will be entitled to treatment by a general practitioner or specialist in national scheme of sickness insurance, which will be put into force with free hospital care by the public hospital service.

The survey reveals that the war and the Nazi occupation of Europe has resulted from it is many European countries have largely destroyed the value, not only of the prewar rates of benefit, but also of the accumulated reserves of insurance contributions.

Almost everywhere, wages lag behind the cost of living. Even in those conditions reportedly threaten to become chronic, a tendency which has been regarded as essential to social insurance since 1942, by the principle of calculating benefits on the basis of the wage of the insured person, and (2) that of increasing pensions in proportion to the amount of the contributions paid.

Social insurance schemes in Europe are financed by the three employers alone, or by insured persons and employers, or by insured persons and the state, or, lastly, by all these parties.

AFL Union Upheld by NLRB Examiner; Bargaining Ordered Despite Long Lapse

Chicago.—A trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board ruled that a company must bargain with the AFL Photo-Engravers Union 4 years since original certification of the union as collective bargaining agent.

The examiner's decision also declared illegal the company's refusal to engineer decertification of the union by creating and supporting a so-called independent union of its own employes.

The ruling was in a case involving the AFL's Photo-Engravers Union, No. 5 and the Superior Engraving Company, Joseph M. Jacobs, labor attorney, instituted legal proceedings against the union immediately following its refusal to comply with a directive of the National War Labor Board issued in 1945, ordering it to bargain with the union. The union won a collective bargaining election conducted by the NLRB in 1945.

The intermediate report, issued by Wallace E. Royster, NLRB trial examiner, held that in spite of the lapse of nearly 4 years, the company, even under the Taft-Hartley law, was required to bargain collectively with the union. The trial examiner found that the company had illegally sponsored and dominated an organization called the Independent Photo-Engravers Association, and that such association must be disestablished.

In supporting his findings, the trial examiner ruled that Edward J. Conforti, company president, bribed a company employe to insure employe opposition to the AFL union and to stimulate interest in establishing a so-called rival organization. He found that he bought an employe a hat and that he promised a $100 bonus to one and that he made gifts amounting to $500 to another employe in order to create opposition to the AFL union in the shop. The trial examiner rejected the company's plea that the union had lost its majority status.

Louis A. Miller, president of the AFL Photo-Engravers' Union, Local 5, hailed the trial examiner's decision as a vindication of collective bargaining rights. He said: "We emphasize the significance of this decision was the fact that employe rights once secured by a union must be honored in accordance with the law."

NOVEL TRAINING PROJECT FOR BUILDING APPRENTICES

Washington.—If a project under consideration by the New York City Housing Authority is carried out, the city will have a novel apprenticeship for its construction training, according to the Bureau of Apprenticeship of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The proposed project is the reconstruction by apprentices, under supervision of journeymen, of a building to be used as a school for apprentices. Those crafts would receive the related classroom instruction they must have.

The proposal was made by a member of the Canton Board of Education and has been indorsed by the Stark Tri-County Construction Council, Inc., representing Canton contractors, and the Stark Tri-County Building Trades Council representing Canton unions.

AFL UNIONS CONTRIBUTE $1,800 FOR FLOOD RELIEF

Portland, Ore.—Two AFL unions here have contributed more than $1,800, raised by their membership, for the relief of victims of the flood disaster in near-by Vanport.

Announcement of the contribution was made by T. M. Kincaid, secretary-treasurer of Local 11 of the Office Employes International Union, and James Falkenburg, business representative of Local 132 of the International Chemical Workers Union.

NLRB Rules Out CIO Union 'Front' In Nonfiling Case

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board decided that a CIO national union cannot "front" for one of its local unions which has not complied with non-Communist affidavits.

The ruling was handed down in a case involving the Oil Workers, CIO, and its Local 128, of the Shell Oil Company, Los Angeles, Calif.

The board rejected a petition of the international union to be named as the bargaining agent for 12 Lane Wells employes. The company is engaged in oil well surveying and logging.

The Taft-Hartley Act requires that to use the machinery of the NLRB, officers of a union must submit affidavits disavowing Communism.

The national officers of the Oil Workers have complied, but the leaders of Local 128, for reasons not explained by the board, have not signed the oaths.

The international union, asking to be certified as the bargaining agent, said it had locals in Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Torrance, Taft, and Santa Maria, Calif. For that reason, the international argued, it would be impractical and not appropriate for each of the local unions to make affidavits on its own behalf if these employes regardless of whether they are qualified to file or not."

The board said that Local 128 had taken the initial steps to secure a petition of representation "by writing the employer a letter requesting recognition."

For that reason, the board said it could not recognize the national union as a "front" for Local 128.

150 "MONEY-SAVING DISHES" IN NEW, FREE RECIPE BOOK

Washington.—The homemaker who is looking with both eyes and food shortages will find practical help in a new recipe booklet, "Money-Saving Main Dishes," issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. More than 150 recipes, meal plans and lunch box suggestions offer ways of using plentiful foods and lower-priced cuts of meat to provide a variety of hearty, healthful meals.

By following the menus offered in the booklet over a period of time the homemaker can cut meat costs, it is said, as much as 10 percent on extending dishes as well as meat. Recipes for "meatless" stews use potato burgers—made by combining ground beef with mashed potatoes—a coarsely grated raw potato—and stuffed pork shoulder—which uses a cut nearly half the price of the more expensive ham. The booklet has been prepared by experts of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

To secure a free copy of the booklet, print your name and address on a post card and mail it to Food Conservation, Washington 25, D. C. This is a new booklet. No postage is required to bring you a copy.

MILLINERY WORKERS HEAD PROPOSES INDUSTRY TALK

New York.—Nathaniel Spector, manager of the Millinery Workers Union, Local 24, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, AFL, and the AFL's United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, issued a call for the holding of a national conference of manufacturers, retailers, materials suppliers and the union to plan a campaign to increase the sales and wages of women's hats.

He said the prosperity of the industry was essential to the continued employment and welfare of the union's members. The millinery union is generating a keener demand for higher wages and increased welfare fund to the employers this fall.

WE HAVE THE VOTES
LET'S USE THEM

Social Security Extension Bill Hit; Green Says It Offers 'Meager Crumbs'

Washington.—AFL President William Green attacked proposed legislation to extend the social security system as "meager crumbs" offered to workers "in lieu of the sound and substantial improvements their need and times demand."

In a statement commenting on the proposed bill reported by the House Ways and Means Committee, which extends partial coverage under the social security law to about 3,500,000 workers, the AFL leader declared that the contents of the measure "do not justify the claims that are reportedly expended in its preparation."

Declaring that American workers will not be lulled into acceptance of the measure, nor misled by the "high-sounding phrases appearing in the majority report of the committee," Mr. Green said:

"The bill prepared by the House Ways and Means Committee and introduced in the Congressional Record of New York is titled, 'A Bill to extend the coverage of old-age and Survivors Insurance system, to increase certain benefits payable under such system, and for other purposes.'

"The enactment of this bill reveals nothing to justify the months of labor that have reportedly been expended in its preparation nor any indication that the majority of the Ways and Means Committee is aware of the needs of the working people of America. A more honest title for the bill would be 'A bill to give a few workers a very meager extension of partial coverage of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance system, to increase very slightly benefits payable under such system, and for certain nefarious purposes.'

"The much advertised extension of coverage leaves out the great blocks of employment which all students of Social Security have long agreed should be included, such as the self-employed and agricultural workers. There is a catch in such limited extension as the bill does provide in that it fails to include any 'new start' provisions. So workers brought into the system would have to pay Social Security taxes for 10 years before having any protection and then on meager retirement pay would have lower benefits than others who had been under the system. No such so-called extension of coverage is a fraud against American workers.

"Despite sky-rocketing prices, except for a very few cases of child dependents, no improvement is provided in the benefits. The maximum for family benefits is left unchanged and nothing is done for the older, retired workers.

"Not content with their failure to make the substantial improvements in the system which have been repeatedly agreed to by accredited representatives of business, agriculture and labor and which have been declared practical by the most competent students of Social Insurance, the majority of the House Ways and Means Committee proceeded to include in the bill a provision which would extend between half and three-quarters of a million workers already enjoying the protection of the program."

Job Prospects Bright For School Graduates

Washington.—The job outlook for the 1,000,000 young people graduating from secondary schools and the more than 200,000 who will graduate from 1,600 colleges and 600 junior colleges in some fields will meet increasing competition from veterans, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Most college graduates will find that they are in strong demand. The country is in need of additional trained engineers, chemists, physicists, teachers, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, librarians, and specialists in various fields of science.

In the next year or two, however, graduates in some fields will find that the supply of newly-trained persons has outstripped the needs. The colleges now have nearly 2½ million students enrolled, an all-time peak, nearly double the prewar enrollment. The number will rise further as veterans complete their training.

Among the high school graduates the outlook in professional fields is good. Opportunities are also favorable in skilled trades.

A very large proportion of them will enter industrial occupations. Some young women graduates will find good secretarial opportunities. Reports not in the so-called "glamour" industries, such as plastics or aviation, but in such areas as steel, automobiles, machinery, building trades, railroads, and metal trades whose labor turnover is higher.

Local CIO Union Rebels at 'Red' Rule; Affiliates With AFL's Upholsterers

Philadelphia.—A revolt against Communist leadership of their former union has caused the employes of one of the largest furniture plants here in Indiana to join the Upholsterers' International Union, AFL, it was disclosed by Sal B. Hoffman, president of the UIU at its headquarters here.

Refusal of officials of the United Furniture Workers of America, CIO, to comply with the Taft-Hartley act by signing non-Communist affidavits prompted the rebellion against the old-established local seceding from the UFWA. They have since been granted a charter by the UIU.

The group is the 17th local to leave the CIO union over the Communist issue and become affiliated with the AFL. Andrew Agnew, a fellowship an unsuccessful attempt by a large number of UFWA workers to free themselves of Red domination, Hoffman said.

Membership of the locals which left the UFWA for the UIU have been 10,000.

While the Communists were able to retain their grip on the UFWA, they have proved to be unpopular and many have been forced to resign. Morris Muster publicly proclaimed he was quitting office because the UFWA was controlled by Communists.

Largest of the units to change affiliation was the former Furniture Workers Local 282 with 1,200 members, headed by George Kovacs, who was elected vice president of the UIU and other like-minded locals.

"Our laws forbid Communists or fellow travelers from maintaining or holding office in the UIU. In the past we have even expelled Communists from membership, but under the Taft-Hartley law we..no longer are permitted to do so."

AFL MUSICIANS' UNION REPORTS MEMBERSHIP GAIN

Asbury Park, N. J.—The American Federation of Musicians reported a 16,000 membership gain in 1947 for a new high record.

James C. Petrillo, AFM president reported a total membership of 220,000 on the eve of the union's convention here.

CUSTOMS EXEMPTION HIKED TO $400 VALUE

Washington.—Under a new law returning residents to the U. S. from Canada, Mexico and abroad, will be allowed to bring in an additional $200 worth of goods every 6 months provided they remain away 12 days. Returning travelers also are allowed the regular $100 duty-free allowance every 30 days if they stay away 48 hours (24 hours on the California-Mexico border). The $200 additional allowance excludes alcoholic beverages and cigars.

GARMENT WORKERS WIN 8% PAY HIKE IN NEW PACT

Philadelphia.—Agreement on a new 3-year contract for 2,000 workers has been reached by Samuel Edelstein & Sons, Inc., manufacturers of manufacturers of leather belts, and the Leather Belt Workers Local Board of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Terms of the agreement were announced by Samuel Rosner, manager of the Joint Board and Business Agent Robert Adelstein who negotiated the contract with Samuel Edelstein.

The wage increase was accompanied by a proviso that be employes was to receives less than a $1 raise. The increase was made retroactive to March 1.

Other gains by the union included two additional paid holidays and inclusion of the Edelstein employes in the Union's Fair Income Fund, which, maintained by employer contributions, provides unemployed members with payments supplementing state compensation.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Are You REGISTERED?

That's Telling 'Em, Harry!

The following letter is reprinted, without expurgation, from the "West Coast Sailor," official organ of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, a division of the AFL's Seafarers International Union:

William Z. Foster, Chairman
Communist Party, U. S. A.
35 East 12th Street
New York 3, N. Y.

We are in receipt of your communication dated May 7, 1948, and also a copy of a letter to William Green from the Communist Party.

In these letters you appeal to us and to William Green, as head of the American Federation of Labor, to help the Communist Party in its fight for free speech and constitutional rights while the Taft-Hartley Bill (H. R. 5852) supposedly would destroy, according to you.

We think you have a hell of a nerve appealing to a bona fide American trade union for help in view of the scabby disruptive tactics employed by your so-called Political Party against the American trade union movement and against the United States as a whole.

All through your letter you refer to fascism, stating that your party is antifascist. Who are you kidding? There are no bigger fascists than the Communists. The only difference between you and Hitler is that Stalin went Hitler one better.

You state in your letter that when the Communist Party was outlawed in Nazi Germany, the trade unions and other organizations of the people were soon smashed. Who the hell do you think you are kidding again? It was the Communist Party that joined hands with the Nazis to break up the Socialist Party and the trade union movement in Germany. These are facts that any bona fide trade union member knows. Don't try to propagandize people who know the score.

As a matter of fact, our organization classes the Communist Party as an enemy of the working class. As far as we are concerned, they are the middle of Siberia and let it have a taste of Uncle Stalin's rule for awhile.

At the present time there are 15 million forced-trade unionists and political prisoners in Siberia being starved and beaten to death by Joe Stalin's Cossacks. It is our considered opinion that you are a fit leader for the American Communist Party, its stooges, its fellow travelers—long haired ones and short haired ones as far as that goes—and that you are concerned, you and your finky Communist Party can kiss our royal American behind, and that goes for Joe Stalin, too.

And P.S.: Do not send any of your phony propaganda to our union because it will go the same way as all of your other crap—filed and flushed out!

HARRY LUNDEBERG, Secretary-Treasurer,
Sailors' Union of the Pacific.

Schwellenbach, Labor Secretary, Dies; Green Joins National Leaders In Tribute

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach died in Walter Reed Hospital here after several weeks of illness. He was 53 years old.

Upon being informed of Mr. Schwellenbach's death, AFL President William Green issued a statement expressing his "deep regret" and declaring that "his loss will be mourned by the American workers whose welfare he so staunchly defended."

The cause of Mr. Schwellenbach's death was attributed to cardiac failure following a recent illness with pneumonia. He had been hospitalized since May 29.

Associates in the Labor Department said Mr. Schwellenbach's health had been in poor health since 1946, had literally worked himself to death.

A lawyer, the late Secretary of Labor had served as U. S. Senator and as federal judge in his native state of Washington before President Truman appointed him to the Cabinet post on July 1, 1945.

In that position, he worked valiantly, but unsuccessfully, in 1946 to rebuild the Labor Department which had been emasculated by the 80th Congress.

In the 1947 congressional battles over labor legislation, Secretary Schwellenbach was a strong ally of labor's side, using his influence at the White House to encourage opposition to the forces wanting strong curbs on the unions.

Mr. Schwellenbach was among those strongly advising the President to veto the Taft-Hartley bill, a course of action which was followed by the President, although the measure was enacted over his veto.

Tributes to Mr. Schwellenbach poured into the Department of Labor from Cabinet officers, labor and industrial leaders, and men and women in many walks of life.

Secretary of State was informed of Mr. Schwellenbach's death while in Olympia, Wash. He said:

"He was a great Senator, a great judge, and a great Secretary of Labor."

The text of Mr. Green's statement follows:

"I learned with deep regret of the sudden death of Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach. Throughout his public service Secretary Schwellenbach evinced keen sympathy for the human problems involved and privileged and warm support for the trade union movement.

"As Secretary of Labor, Mr. Schwellenbach was peculiarly qualified to bring about better relations between management and labor. His efforts to prevent the passage of anti-labor legislation were unavailing, but his effective legislation were thwarted by a reactionary Congress was unassisted by amputating the scope and usefulness of the Department of Labor.

"Mr. Schwellenbach fought a good fight. His passing is a loss that will be mourned by the American workers whose welfare he so staunchly defended."

Fenton Named Delegate To World Labor Parley

Washington.—President Truman named Frank P. Fenton, the AFL's International Representative, to serve as United States workers' delegate to the International Labor Conference which opens June 17 in San Francisco.

Serving as advisors to Mr. Fenton are: George Meany, the AFL's secretary-treasurer; C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor; Joseph D. Keenan, secretary of the Chicago Central Labor Union; E. M. Weston, president of the Washington State Federation of Labor; Jay Doyle, secretary of the Seattle Central Labor Union; Dave Beck, West Coast representative of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers; H. W. Fraser, president of the Order of Railway Conductors of America, Brac Hamilton, vice-president of the Western Trade Union League; Bert M. Jewell, international representative of the Railway Labor Executives' Association; Mrs. Mary Anderson, former director of social insurance activities, and Serafino Romualdi, secretary for international affairs of the Inter-American Confederation of Workers.

The American Federation of Labor, by virtue of its being the most representative labor organization in the nation, represents United States workers at the International Labor Conference.

The conference is composed of 2 delegates each from the governments of the 52 member states and one delegate and one advisor each from labor of the member states. Its principal function is the formulation of international social standards in the form of international labor conventions and in recommendations. It is expected that the 1948 convention adopted by the conference it assumes the obligation to take measures to bring its legislation into line with the terms of the convention. The machinery is available to enforce the application by a country of the terms of a convention it has ratified.

The matters with which the conventions deal cover a wide range. They include hours of work, the minimum wage, the regulation of working conditions of women and young workers, workmen's compensation, social insurance, minimum age, forced labor, migration for employment, homelf governing territories, holidays with pay, industrial safety, statistics and subjects relating to immigration.

ILO Director Holds World Collaboration Must Be Pursued on All Possible Fronts

Montreal.—International collaboration among nations should be pursued whenever it can be made to work in the hope that slowly it will build confidence and foundations for lasting peace, declared Edward Phelan, director-general of the International Labor Office, declared in his annual report.

The report, made public at ILO headquarters at Montreal, will be submitted to the ILO's 31st general conference opening today in San Francisco.

Pledging anew the ILO's collaboration with the United Nations and its specialized organizations, Mr. Phelan pointed out that the organization's objectives, better conditions of labor and higher standards of living, are the "no boundaries of political or economic or ideological division."

The ILO, he said, welcomed "the right and duty of the United Nations to subscribe to its constitution and to pursue its objectives through its democratic methods which that constitution prescribes."

In a summary of the international political background against which the report is presented, Mr. Phelan said that while it would be dangerous to underestimate the failure to achieve international cooperation in establishing peace, it would be equally dangerous to exaggerate it.

It may have been overoptimistic, he said, to assume that a collision of policies and methods could be avoided. But in any case, he added, the atmosphere of apprehension and suspicion engendered by this collision should not be allowed to obscure either the nature or importance of such other developments as the Marshall program for European recovery.

The report will constitute one of the 12 items on the agenda of the San Francisco conference, and it is expected to be thoroughly debated by the government, management and labor delegates attending.

Reviewing the economic background against which the ILO conference meets, Mr. Phelan said that world-wide trends in social policy throughout the past year "have shown that world living standards had improved during the year, but that the progress was slower than expected. He emphasized also that both production and living standards are still threatened by inflation.

Continuing inflation, he stressed, "would not only prevent progress but could only be met successfully by drastic measures to increase production. Policies designed to create incentives to greater production would, however, only aggravate the difficult problem of attracting a greater proportion of the total labor force into the industries in which its services are most needed.

In his review of the ILO's activities in the 1947 peace conference, Mr. Phelan pointed out that the revision of the ILO constitution, which he now been concluded with the coming into force of the amendments approved by the 1946 session. This action, he said, has significance in two respects.

"The first is that important additions have been made to the powers of the ILO's international action.

"The second, perhaps more important, is the solemn reaffirmation without exception of all the fundamental principles of the ILO. The ILO, he constructed nearly 30 years ago. Many of them were then daring innovations. They now achieve a fresh acceptance, after a critical examination by another generation. After having been tested by over a quarter of a century both in peace and in war, their validity emerges unchallenged and their permanence seems assured. The organization remains unique in its international tripartite character, uniquely adapted for the consideration of the range of problems for which its competence is reaffirmed."

Green Says Repeal of T-H Law Only Remedy For Its Ill Effects

Excerpts From AFL Report On Operation Under T-H Law

The following brief excerpts are taken from a report on the results obtained from a questionnaire submitted to 171 AFL field representatives to determine the effect of the Taft-Hartley law's operation upon union organization. The report was submitted to the Congressional "Watchdog" Committee on Labor-Management Relations by AFL Counsel William Green during his testimony.

THE HANDLING OF CASES BEFORE THE NLRB

All but a very few representatives indicated that they were experiencing delays under the new law. Most of this delay has been the direct result of the requirement that employe elections be held before any type of union security clause can be negotiated between unions and management. The flood of union security elections has held up all other types of board activity.

The extent of these board delays in union organization is clear. If a union has been organized among the employes of a new plant, those employes are anxious to have the formal proper certification completed as quickly as possible. If this procedure—which could through the process of collective bargaining be over in a period of time as low as two months—takes out to 9 or 10 months through employer stalling and the slow process of board procedure, the employes are bound to be bitterly disheartened.

Insofar as unfair labor practices are concerned, unions are facing an additional obstacle in attempting to expedite board procedure because the Taft-Hartley law has changed the board procedure in consideration to such types of unfair labor practices against unions. As a result, unions are finding it more and more difficult to obtain action on unfair labor practices that they have filed against employers.

ELECTION PROCEDURE OF THE NLRB

There have been several new changes in NLRB procedure which have handicapped union organizational efforts. Several representatives specifically mention the prohibition which the new law places upon the holding of prehearing elections. The use of this device enabled the board under the old law to expedite many petitions for certification. Now, under the present law this procedure is no longer open to the board.

Representatives also report that employers are using their new freedom in filing petitions to forestall and delay union organization.

One representative said: "In still open to the employer to board interpretation is section 9 (c) (5) which knocks out the board's "extent of organization" doctrine. Prior to the new law, the board frequently permitted a departmental or section bargaining quits. However, this practice is no longer permitted under the new law, and as a result unionization of small establishments as large banks and insurance companies are almost certain to be deprived of any bargaining unit."

USE OF FREE SPEECH BY EMPLOYERS

It is evident that the free speech provision in the Taft-Hartley law has been turned into one of the most vicious and diabolical instruments ever placed at the disposal of antiunion employers.

Under the Wagner Act the employer was required to maintain strict impartiality during union campaigns. However, the very loosely worded and interpreted free speech provision of the Taft-Hartley law makes it possible for the employer to state clearly and unequivocally his position with regard to union organization. It is true he cannot coerce or intimidate his employes into voting against union representation. What he can do, however, is to state very clearly, and to force employes to listen to, his opposition to union organization.

ATTITUDE OF EMPLOYERS

The overwhelming majority of AFL representatives declared the attitude of some employers has stiffened considerably since enactment of the Taft-Hartley law.

In effect, the act has provided antiunion employers with new weapons which they have been quick to use. It has furnished many employers, who with convenient excuses to delay collective bargaining negotiations and to object to proposals to which they would otherwise agree. By turning the balance of bargaining strength in favor of employers, the act has stiffened employer resistance to the granting of third-round wage increases.

UNION SECURITY, SECONDARY BOYCOTTS, DAMAGE SUITS

Inquiry into the issue of union security disclosed the interruption to peaceful collective bargaining that the prohibition of the closed shop has brought. This has proved particularly serious in such industries as the building trades where the closed shop has been a stabilizing institution for several years.

The requirement for the union shop election has proved extremely burdensome. Union leaders have naturally been gratified at the results of these elections, but the fact that the union shop is the only union security form a democratic election has interfered with the orderly process of collective bargaining.

One of the most vicious aspects of the union security issue under the Taft-Hartley law is the failure of the act to enforce the no-raid statutes prohibiting all types of union security. The effect of this law has been to weaken unionization in those areas and among those groups which are most in need of it. It has given encouragement to antiunion employers.

In connection with the secondary boycott issue, organizers report that while the secondary boycott provisions have been accused of violating the rights in this regard have not been numerous, they have reflected a type of union-busting which is far beyond the intent of Congress.

The information concerning damage suits was very similar to the data relating to secondary boycotts. Although damage suits against unions have been filed against unions, those that have been filed have proved very effective devices for tying up union finances and combating union activities.

GENERAL COMMENTS

A number of individuals commented on the problem of the jurisdiction of the NLRB. The present board has asserted jurisdiction in authority over particular industries and trades which previously had not been subject to the Wagner Act. This has led to the unionization of a number of predominantly local establishments which are not certain whether they do or do not come under the jurisdiction of the act.

A number of organizers commented that the Taft-Hartley law has meant the return of company unions. There have been cases where employers represent them in collective bargaining negotiations. The result of this interference of legal labor has been to introduce even greater delays and more technical phraseology into collective bargaining. The net result has been to create confusion between unions and management is so desperately needed.

SUMMARY

The total effect of the Taft-Hartley law on union-management relations, which becomes apparent from an analysis of these questionnaires, can be summarized in a few words. The law has given a new weapon to the enemies of labor, a weapon with which they are able to frustrate the desire of their employes to bargain collectively through unions. Even many fair-minded employers have continued to deal frankly and honestly with the representatives of their employes, but discriminated against by a relatively small but determined aggressive minority.

The net result of frustration is evident, too, at the bargaining table. Full and open discussion of the facts in dispute has tended to give way to sharp bargaining on technical points, with each side suspecting the motives and intentions of the other. As one organizer put it, "We find much more resistance, more dignified fear of position at the bargaining table, and less full and open collective bargaining."

Urges 'Watchdog' Unit Restore Wagner Act For Nation's Good

Washington.—AFL President William Green declared that "every fibre and tissue of the Taft-Hartley law is so thoroughly malignant that it is wholly beyond remedy or cure, short of complete repeal."

Appearing before the Congressional "Watchdog" Committee which oversees the operation of the law, Mr. Green declared:

"If it is not the purpose of this committee to work the destruction of unions and of collective bargaining itself, if it is not the desire of this committee to perpetuate government control over labor-management relations, the committee should promptly call for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law."

In his analysis of the proposed amendments to the law being considered by the committee, the AFL leader concluded in each instance that reinstatement of the original Wagner Act in place of the Taft-Hartley law would be the only change which would bring any real and lasting benefit to organized labor and the nation. He said:

"I don't will it profit the nation to attempt to correct some of the mistakes written into law by our legislators, no matter how great and numerous these mistakes may be, if we fail to correct other and even more grievous errors that were incorporated into it over a widespread public protest and over the vehement objection of the nation's organized labor.

Mr. Green hit at the restrictions and limitations imposed by the Taft-Hartley law upon the collective bargaining process as it affects the issue of union security. He said that to repeal the closed shop authorization election requirement, as proposed, would be a remedy.

In defense of the closed shop, Mr. Green cited the fact that in the 2-year period preceding the enactment of the new labor law, there was not a single major industrial dispute over the issue of the closed shop."

"It is the contract," he said, "the firmest basis for peaceful amicable and cooperative relationship between workers and employers and the most very industries in which the closed shop was in effect.

Removal of all restrictions on the union security issue is the only means of "repairing the damage the Taft-Hartley law has inflicted upon the voluntary relations of labor and management," Mr. Green asserted.

The AFL spokesman charged that the collective bargaining is being strangled by delays resulting from the imposition by the Taft-Hartley law of the jurisdiction of the NLRB over the National Labor Relations Board. The board would restrict labor's bargaining power in the face of present trends which have led to the growth of union strength on the part of the nation's industrial giants.

"The 80th Congress has failed to adopt measures essential to achieve industry stability and to protect wage earners against the ravages of price inflation. The board cases for years the nation has experienced rapid concentration of economic and political power in the hands of a few corporations. This trend has resulted in the last wave of economic concentration which dwarfs in size and importance anything of this kind ever recorded in history.

"Does the committee suggest that there is anything resembling the balance of bargaining power between the giant corporate aggregate and a union? Or does the committee go even beyond that and suggest that a corporation should be prevented from only by pygmy unions? The very fact that this trend has grown since the end of the war, living costs have skyrocketed and the wage lowered is conclusive proof of the fact that this economic power has not been at labor's side.

"Industry-wide bargaining has never been a threat to the small employer, but a help to him. It helped stabilize competitive wages on a uniform basis. Whenever we find the typical employer to be small and the union relatively large, as in the apparel industry, we find industry-wide bargaining is productive of a high degree of cooperation between workers and employers, directly as the result of industry-wide voluntary agreement.

"Interference with industry-wide agreements between unions and employers can easily be interference with the most constructive contribution to industrial self-government."

Petrillo Charges Industry Runs Nation; Unions Are Stifled by Antilabor Statutes

Asbury Park, N. J.—Charging that industry is running the nation and dictating the laws that Congress passes, James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, asserted that present antilabor legislation makes it impossible for unions to wage a successful fight on any front.

In his keynote address before 1,071 delegates attending the union's 41st annual convention here, Mr. Petrillo declared that no union is strong enough to win a strike in the face of the Taft-Hartley law and called for an immediate merger of all wings of the American labor movement to prevent the wiping out of some unions.

"Need I tell you that unions had to go on strike today take an awful shellacking?" Mr. Petrillo asked. "The government agencies are there to see that they take a shellacking. If the employer is in trouble, he calls the Attorney General and gets 10 sleepers to help him. You take what some bum offers you who knows nothing about our business. If you go on strike, they slap an injunction on you and you go to work anyway. If the employer has the right to sue you for anything."

He said suits totaling $9,000,000 already had been filed by employers against 101 unions, and that this was only "a drop in the bucket" against what could be expected later. The strategy of the Associated Employers of Massachusetts, he declared, was to "go easy" with the Taft-Hartley law until after the election in an effort to prove that the law was not really harmful to labor. Once a Republican President, Congress and Attorney General had been installed, labor would "get the business" in full measure, Mr. Petrillo cautioned.

The union leader said Mr. Petrillo made it clear that the union will not retreat from its ban on recordings. He defended the union's position as necessary to safeguard musicians against the competition of "canned music."

It was announced, however, that a referendum vote of the union to end the recording business had been turned down. Dianne Donnelly, general counsel for the union, said "making of records is a legitimate activity and a legitimate scope and area of a labor union," and that would expose the union to prosecution under the Sherman antitrust law." The proposal was made under consideration as a means of protecting the welfare of the union by the Taft-Hartley law's ban on royalty payments by record manufacturers.

Proceeds from earlier royalty payments were used by the union's AFM to underwrite a series of free music concerts throughout the nation. Inaugurating the 1948 series was a recital by Jascha Heifetz, violinist, before a distinguished audience led by President Truman and his family.

Delegates to the convention nominated Mr. Petrillo without opposition for his 9th consecutive year as AFM president.

Trial Examiner Opposes Jurisdiction of NLRB Over Small Building Contractor

Washington.—A trial examiner for the National Labor Relations Board, Horace A. Ruckel, stated that the board should refuse jurisdiction over a building trades contractor whose gross annual business amounted to only $325,000.

The statement appeared in the trial examiner's report in which he recommended dismissal of an unfair labor practice case brought against The Hoisan, NLRB general counsel produced insufficient evidence to show that the contractor's business either was in or affected interstate commerce.

Examiner Ruckel observed that "the effect of this business upon commerce is, at the best, remote and slight."

He added that if the operations of the small contractor involved affect interstate commerce within the meaning of the law "then so do those of nearly every corner grocery and neighborhood bakery in the country."

It is the first time that an NLRB examiner has declared that the board should decline jurisdiction of a case under the Labor-Management Relations Act.

Mr. Ruckel recommended dismissal of complaints against Walter J. Mentzer Contracting Co., Inc., a building contractor, and Local 31 of the AFL's Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International Association of the U. S. and Canada. They were charged with unfair labor practices in the discharge of George E. Wachter, Jr. Trial Examiner Robert N. Denham closed shop contract.

The scope of the NLRB's jurisdiction is in the contentious stage. The Supreme Court ruled in the Bedden White Truck Company decision, in which a minority of the board thought it was not to exercise jurisdiction. He said that unlike that case, none of the goods involved in the present (Mentzer) case "come to it directly across state lines, and no efforts were made to ordinary state customers."

AFL UNION OFFICIALS COMPLETE 3-WEEK COURSE

Urbana, Ill.—Fourteen officials of the Laundry Workers International Union and its locals received certificates for completing a 3-week course of study here at the University of Illinois campus.

Sam J. Byers, president of the LWIU, presented the certificates to the students at a dinner concluding the session. The U. of I. Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations conducted the program of 50 hours of classroom instruction through its Division of University Extension.

The group, made up of unionists from 8 different states, tackled an intensive course that included classes in such subjects as human relations, collective bargaining, state and federal labor legislation, economics of laundering, and industrial engineering.

Highlight of the first week was a typical grievance session which capped discussions on collective bargaining. Class members acted the parts of both labor and management representatives at the bargaining table as they vigorously threshed out a typical grievance case. The whole group joined in the discussion that followed to point out good and bad points in the way the grievance was handled.

NEW WAGE ORDER PROPOSED FOR PUERTO RICAN WORKERS

Washington.—Notice of his intention to adopt a new wage order under the Fair Labor Standards Act establishing a minimum rate of 40 cents an hour for the Sugar Manufacturing Industry in Puerto Rico was announced by Wm. R. McComb, administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

Approximately 50,000 employes are engaged in the industry, now subject to a wage order providing a 35-cents-an-hour minimum.

FIVE TILE MANUFACTURERS TOLD TO END PRICE FIXING

Washington.—The Federal Trade Commission ordered 5 tile manufacturers to end "an admitted" conspiracy to fix prices.

The companies, the commission said, had 1943 output totalling more than 60 percent of the glazed tile produced and shipped from the producing area of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The tile is used as an interior finish.

The FTC said the order was issued after the companies admitted all the material allegations complained of by the commission.